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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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March 15, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH FEDERAL DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CONCERNING PANDEMIC  
INFLUENZA PLANNING (ALL 5 DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Authorize the Mayor, or designee, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the federal Department of Health and Human Services for Pandemic Influenza Planning, substantially similar to Attachment A, subject to review and approval by County Counsel.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval will authorize the Mayor, or designee, to sign an MOU with the Secretary of Health and Human Services at the Pandemic Influenza Planning summit to be held in Los Angeles on March 30, 2006. The MOU establishes the relationship between DHHS and Los Angeles County for Pandemic Influenza Planning.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

DHHS is providing \$2.9 million to Los Angeles County for pandemic influenza planning. The funding is being offered as an amendment to the FY 05-06 federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cooperative Agreement for Bioterrorism Preparedness, for the budget period August 31, 2005 through August 30, 2006, with the ability to utilize the funds into the next grant budget period. The detailed budget will be approved by CDC based on a proposal to be submitted after CDC issues the final guidance for the funding.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

On December 5, 2005, President Bush and DHHS Secretary Leavitt announced plans for Pandemic Influenza Planning Summits in each state in the country. As part of the federal commitment to ensure that the nation is prepared for pandemic influenza, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced that \$100 million was immediately available for state and local preparedness. That funding is part of a total \$350 million allocated for pandemic influenza planning. Los Angeles County's allocation from the first \$100 million is \$2.9 million. The State Department of Health Services receives an allocation for the remainder of the State.

On January 17, 2006, the Mayor received a letter from Secretary Leavitt, asking the County to host a Pandemic Influenza Summit in Los Angeles County. The Summit's purpose is to highlight the importance of planning for pandemic influenza, particularly with the concerns that the avian influenza could become more readily transmitted from human to human. The invitees will include elected officials from local government, local education leaders, local fire and law enforcement, business leaders, and local public health officials. Discussions between the district HHS office, the Governor's office and department staff have resulted in a plan for a summit on March 30, 2006, with Secretary Leavitt and Governor Schwarzenegger in attendance.

DHHS has recently asked Los Angeles County to participate in the signing of an MOU as part of the Summit activities. DHHS has made this request of all jurisdictions as a condition for receiving pandemic influenza funds. The MOU delineates the federal government's roles and responsibilities with respect to pandemic influenza and the general activities that it expects from Los Angeles County. Specific details of the funding and workplan will be administered through an amendment to the existing CDC Cooperative Agreement for Bioterrorism Preparedness. Specific guidance for use of the funding is forthcoming. The proposed MOU is attached.

Authorization to sign the MOU is subject to County Counsel review.

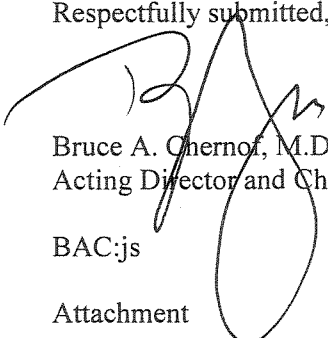
**CONTRACTING PROCESS**

Not applicable.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECT):**

Pandemic influenza planning funding from DHHS will enable the County to prepare the entire County, including residents and health, business, to reduce the projected toll of a pandemic influenza outbreak.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.  
Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer

BAC:js

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**Planning Resolution between Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt and  
Mayor Michael Antonovich of Los Angeles County**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Influenza pandemics have occurred three times in the last century, and history and science suggest that the country and the world could face one or more pandemics in this century;
2. A pandemic can cause severe illness, death, and disruption throughout the country and the world, and outbreaks can occur in many different locations all at the same time;
3. Preparing for an influenza pandemic requires coordinated action at all levels of government - federal, state, local, tribal - and all sectors of society, including businesses, schools, faith-based and community organizations, families and individuals;
4. The federal government has committed to taking a leadership role in creating a prepared Nation by monitoring international and domestic outbreaks, providing funding and technical assistance to foster local and state preparedness, stockpiling and distributing countermeasures, developing new treatments, and coordinating the national response;
5. The Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has committed to holding pandemic planning summits in all 50 states, assisting states to improve their level of preparedness;
6. President George W. Bush asked Congress for emergency spending authority to prepare the United States against the possibility of a pandemic. The Congress has provided over \$3 billion for that purpose in the Defense Appropriations Act for 2006, including funding for state and local planning purposes;
7. States and local communities are responsible under their own authorities for responding to an outbreak within their jurisdictions and having comprehensive pandemic preparedness plans and measures in place to protect their citizens;
8. Consistent with its authorities and availability of funding, HHS may provide additional resources for State and local influenza planning and preparedness activities, and require specific preparedness goals and achievement of these goals from States and localities as a condition of financial assistance;
9. Preparedness plans must be periodically exercised and updated to make sure they work and to achieve a stronger level of preparedness; and
10. Pandemic preparedness will help communities deal with any type of medical emergency and will have lasting benefits for the health of our Nation;
11. HHS and Los Angeles County share common goals, and have shared and independent responsibilities for influenza planning and preparedness.

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. HHS will be responsible for:
  - a) Continuing to provide substantial guidance and technical assistance to Los Angeles County as it prepares to respond to a possible influenza pandemic. Among other things, HHS, and its operating divisions, coordinates pandemic response activities with state, local and tribal public health and health care agencies; supports state pandemic planning efforts; communicates and disseminates timely influenza pandemic information and technical guidance to state and local public health departments and health care agencies; and provides direct support and technical guidance for epidemiological investigations and diagnostic services through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
  - b) Consistent with its statutory authorities, direction from Congress, and Departmental regulations and policy, and subject to available funding, providing States financial assistance for the purposes of pandemic planning. A portion of those funds will be made available to the state immediately upon receipt of a letter of intent; receipt by Los Angeles County of additional amounts will depend upon achievement of preparedness goals as agreed to by HHS and Los Angeles County.
  - c) Reviewing Los Angeles County's plans for use, storage, and distribution of antivirals and notifying Los Angeles County of its portion of the federal stockpile of pandemic influenza antiviral drugs.
2. Los Angeles County will be responsible for:
  - a) Augmenting local planning with a Pandemic Preparedness Summit.
  - b) Updating Los Angeles County's pandemic influenza plans based on guidance given in the HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan and the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza both released in November 2005 and any guidance the Secretary may provide concerning the use of countermeasures necessary to address a pandemic.
  - c) Assuring that the plan for pandemic influenza response is an integral element of the overall local emergency response plan that will coordinate effectively with Emergency Support Function 8, Health and Medical Services, of the National Response Plan and the National Incident Management System.
  - d) Establishing a Pandemic Preparedness Coordinating Committee or other work group that represents relevant stakeholders in the jurisdiction and that will assist the County in articulating strategic priorities and overseeing the development and execution of the jurisdiction's pandemic plan.
  - e) No later than July 1, 2006 notifying HHS of the amount, if any, of additional pandemic influenza antiviral drugs that Los Angeles County plans to purchase during the next fiscal year in coordination with HHS, subject to the availability of funding and consistent with the federal policy for antiviral stockpiles.

- f) Exercising portions of the state's preparedness plan within 12 months of the date of the state planning summit between the HHS Secretary and the Mayor of Los Angeles County, and participating in a nationwide pandemic planning exercise. These planning and response exercises should enable public health and law enforcement officials to establish procedures and locations for quarantine, surge capacity, diagnostics, and communication.
- g) Providing CDC a self-assessment of readiness on the part of Los Angeles County as one of the deliverables to receive funds referenced in 1.b).
- h) Achieving specific preparedness goals, targets, and timelines as agreed to by HHS, CDC, and Los Angeles County in order to receive additional funds referenced in 1.b).